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"(b) The Government do not propose to take over the Madras Electric Tramways. The question of the Corporation of Madras taking over the Tramways is under the consideration of the Corporation Council whose final decision in the matter is awaited."

Purchase of iron and steel from the "Disposals".

* 72 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have arranged to purchase large quantities of iron and steel including scrap from the "Disposals";

(b) what the quantity purchased and the amount paid for it are;

(c) where these materials are available;

(d) to what extent supply of iron and steel has been augmented by the purchases from the "Disposals";

(e) whether any portion of it will be released for the use of the public; and

(f) whether the materials purchased can be utilized straight away without further fabrication?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"(a) Yes. Government have ordered the purchase of about 14,175 tons of iron and steel of the controlled categories from the Military Engineering Parks at Arkonam, Avadi, Coimbatore and Vizagapatam and the Engineer Store Depot at Avadi.

"(b) The quantity of steel proposed to be purchased is 14,175 tons at Rs. 28,19,805 as shown below:—

	Quantity.	Estimated value.
	TONS.	RS.
(i) Standard Steel	369	92,250
(ii) Defectives (a)	5,370	11,41,125
(b)	6,564	12,30,750
(iii) Scrap	1,872	3,55,680
Total ..	14,175	28,19,805

No amount has so far been paid, as the release orders for iron and steel are yet awaited from the Iron and Steel Controller.

"(c) These materials are available in the four Military Engineer Parks at Avadi, Arkonam, Coimbatore and Vizagapatam and at the Engineer Store Depot at Avadi.

"(d) It is expected that the purchase from 'Disposals' will augment the supply of iron and steel to this Province to the

extent of this purchase; and appropriate portion of it will have to be counted against the periodical quota for the Province.

"(c) A portion, perhaps about 4,000 tons, of certain categories will be released to the public, through the Agricultural Department.

"(f) The materials are in the form suitable for our requirements."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" May I know, Sir, whether this quantity that has been purchased will be set off against the quota or whether it will be in addition to the quota that we are entitled to have?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" Not all, Sir. A portion of it will be set off." 11-15 a.m.

Amalgamation of the various Engineering services.

* 73 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state when the proposed amalgamation of the various Engineering services will come into force?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" The question is under examination and final orders will be issued after taking into account the decisions arrived at on certain recommendations made by the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee regarding the Highways Department."

Mettupalayam-Coonoor Bus service.

* 74 *Q.*—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Sri Medai Dalavoi Kumaraswami Mudaliyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the managing director of the Mettupalayam-Coonoor Service, a bus company in Coimbatore district, was convicted to a day's imprisonment and to a fine in a criminal case connected with his bus service;

(*b*) whether the Sessions Judge in his judgment on his appeal remarked that the sentence was too light;

(*c*) whether the Government propose to appeal for an enhancement of the sentence;

(*d*) whether the Government propose to cancel the permits of this owner in view of his conviction in a criminal case connected with his bus service;

(*e*) whether the owner of the bus service was connected with certain enquiry by the Police regarding payment of illegal gratification to Government servants; and

(*f*) if so, in what stage the enquiry stands now?